

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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50

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 TRSE-00 AID-20 PC-04 OMB-01 DRC-01 /130 W

----- 051340

O P 021400Z APR 74

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2587

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0218

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ET

SUBJECT: ASMARA SIT REP #6

REF: A. ASMARA 213

B. ASMARA 200

1. ON APRIL 1 GENERAL BERHANE TEFERRA ARRIVED IN ASMARA AND WAS APPOINTED POLICE COMMISSIONER OF ERITREA TO REPLACE MAJOR GENERAL GASHAW. IT IS REPORTED THAT GENERAL BERHANE, WHO HAS A GOOD REPUTATION, HAS SERVED IN ERITREA, SIDAMO, AND ADDIS. HIS NAME WAS ON LIST SUBMITTED TO ADDIS BY POLICE NCOS, FOR THE POSITION TO BE FILLED. GENERAL GASHAW, ALONG WITH AN AIDE AND THE POLICE COMPTROLLER, ARE STILL UNDER HOUSE ARREST. THEIR ACCOUNTS ARE BEING AUDITED AS PART OF AN INVESTIGATION THAT WAS DEMANDED BY THE NCOS.

2. DURING EVENTS OF PAST TWO WEEKS, THE GOVERNOR GENERAL HAS ACTED AS A MEDIATOR FOR THE DIFFERENT FACTIONS CONCERNED. HIS OFFICE APPEARS TO BE STRENGTHENED RELATIVE TO POLICE AND SECOND DIVISION AS A RESULT OF RECENT DISSIDENT ACTIONS. ON MARCH 31 CLERKS OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT PRESENTED A PETITION TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL REQUESTING RESIGNATIONS OF SOME PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS ALONG WITH OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES.

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3. ON APRIL 1 RADIO ASMARA WAS RETURNED TO CIVILIAN CONTROL.
WHILE CAA HAS RETURNED TO WORK IT IS RUMORED THAT KEGN.
TEGHEGN HAILU WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO ADDIS IN ANY SHUFFLE
OF CAA OFFICIALS. COMMERCIAL BANK MANAGER DISCOUNTED
STORIES THAT LARGE QUANTITIES OF NEW ETHIOPIAN CURRENCY
APPEARING IN ASMARA ARE COUNTERFEIT. HE SAYS THE NEW

CURRENCY IS A REPLACEMENT FOR OLD BILLS BEING DESTROYED. HOWEVER,
THEY ARE CAUTIOUS IN WATCHING FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF COUNTERFEIT
CURRENCY.

4. BURTCHAELL, TENNECO ETHIOPIA MANAGER, REPORTS THAT THERE ARE
NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH CAPTORS OF THE TENNECO
PARTY. ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR THE ADMISSION OF THE
TENNECO GROUP TO KAGNEW HOSPITAL UPON THEIR RETURN TO ASMAR.

5. POLICE SOURCE REPORTS THAT THEIR TROOPS ARE SURROUNDING THE
CITY NOT ELF AS RUMORED. MOST POLICE OFFICERS ARRESTED LAST
WEEK HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR JOBS, ACCORDING TO ABOVE SOURCE.
THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF DANGER TO US CITIZENS AT THIS TIME.

PERRY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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To: ADDIS ABABA
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